Subject : German Lusitania medal

Mellon, James F.

[39 Whitehall St.]

1923

Room 416,
39 Whitehall St.,
New York City.

American Numismatic Society,
156th St., and Broadway,
New York City.

Gentlemen:-

I am in possession of a German Medal, struck to commenorate the sinking of the "Lusitania". I came into possession of this Medal in January 1920 in Berlin while there on a visit from Coblenz where I was on duty with the Army of Occupation.

I have written to the New York Historical Society offering this Medal for sale but am, this date, in receipt of a reply in which they state that they have a replica and suggesting that I get in touch with you with a view, if you will be so kind, to placing me in touch with interested parties.

No doubt you are aware of a description of this medal, but in order to clarify any doubt the following is submitted:

Of bronze substance-one side showing sinking of steamer with the words "Keine Bann Ware" and beneath "der Grossdampfer "Lusitania" durch ein Deutsches tauchboot versenkt 7 Mai 1915."

Reverse: Crowd gathered at window of Cunard Line with words "Geschaft uber alles". In the ticket window, which stands in relief, appears a skeleton selling tickets. The letters "K.C." appears at bottom.

I returned from Germany in May of this year. Prior to my return I made every effort in Berlin and other large cities of Germany to obtain another Medal but on every hand was informed that the issue or sale of same was strictly forbidden by Government order and that it was impossible to secure another.

I will be very glad to show this medal at any time even tho purchase is not contemplated.

It will be sincerely appreciated if you can place me in touch with any interested parties.

I enclose stamp for reply.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mellon

JAMES F. MELLON.

September 27th, 1923

Mr. James F. Mellon 39
Rm.416, Whitehall Street
New York City

Dear Sir:

Your favour concerning the Lusitania medal at hand.

A few years ago there was a great demand for Lusitania medals, but for some time now we have heard of no one wishing to acquire a copy. I note that yours is dated May 7th, which shows that it was not one of the first issued, the original was dated May 5th and are very rare. As a matter of fact, the medal is much rarer in Germany than elsewhere as very few were sold there. One dealer, although outside Germany, bought nearly all of the supply, amounting to a great many hundred.

I am enclosing a list of coin dealers which may perhaps be of use to you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E
Enc.